

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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The Honorable Les Aspin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of November 27, 1989 in which you state your concern about ensuring that you receive the most accurate information on the state of Soviet and Warsaw Pact military capabilities.

I have reviewed very carefully your request for an unclassified statement followed by both open and closed testimony to your Committee in a format similar to that used in our presentation on the Soviet economy to the Joint Economic Committee (JEC). The material used to prepare the testimony for the JEC is, to a large extent, unclassified, but the material we must use for your Committee presentation on military capabilities is almost exclusively classified. Thus, we are prepared to make a classified presentation to your Committee that will be the most accurate and current that we can provide. In addition, we could provide a brief unclassified statement that would present general conclusions drawn from the briefing.

As you are aware, our staffs have been working on the specifics for the briefing in keeping with my hope for a strong working relationship between your Committee and the Intelligence Community.

Sincerely,

/s/ William H. Webster
William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

ORIG: OCA/HA/ [] (19 Dec 89)

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